

Applicant : Jean-Michel Caia
Assignee : Intel Corporation
Serial No. : 10/071,263
Filed : February 7, 2002
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Attorney Docket: 10559-697001 / P13306

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 1 and replaces the original sheet including FIG. 1.

In FIG. 1, the term "FRAMEWORK" has been amended to "FRAMEWORD".

Attachment following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 page).

REMARKS

The comments of the applicant below are each preceded by related comments of the examiner (in small, bold type).

2. This Specification does not contain a summary of invention as required by 37 CFR 1.73.

The applicant notes that the rule does not require a summary of the invention.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to because the term "framework in the drawings should be rewritten as "frameword".

FIG. 1 has been amended.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 3, 14, and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities: (N>= 2) should be rewritten as " ,N>=2, ". Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 3, 14, and 25 have been amended.

**6. Claims 1-2, 9-13, 20-24, and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ofek et al. (U.S. 2002/0064181 A1).
- With respect to claims 1, 12, and 23, Ofek teaches a method of processing frames of data comprised of frameword bytes and a payload (e.g. the SONET switching system in Fig. 1), comprising: identifying a start of a first frame and of a phase first frame concurrently based on frameword bytes (page 4, paragraph 53); and aligning data in a second frame, based on the phase of the first frame, to make a start of the second frame coincide with a start of a byte boundary (page 4, paragraph 42).**

Ofek does not disclose or suggest identifying "a start of a first frame of data" and "a phase of the first frame of data" concurrently based on frameword bytes, as recited in amended claim 1. Rather, Ofek discloses identifying boundaries of time frames, and the ordinal number of the time frame within the ordinal number of the time cycle within the super cycle. (paragraph 0053)

Ofek discloses a time-based switching method and system of SONET frames that utilize a common time reference, and that time is divided into a plurality of contiguous periodic time frames (abstract). Each communications channel may use a different time frame duration (paragraph 0151), and the beginning and end of each time frame from each optical channel are aligned with the beginning and end of common time reference (CTR) time frames (paragraph 0042). FIG. 2 of Ofek illustrates how the common time reference signal can be aligned with the Coordinated Universal Time standard (paragraph 0168). Thus, Ofek's "time frame" is a subdivision of time, and is different from the "frame of data" in claim 1. The boundaries and ordinal numbers of "time frames" in Ofek are not equivalent to the start of a "frame of data" and the phase of the "frame of data," respectively, in claim 1.

Moreover, Ofek does not disclose or suggest aligning data in a second frame of data, based on the phase of the first frame of data, as recited in claim 1. Ofek discloses that the time frames of each optical channel are aligned with the common time reference (CTR) time frames (paragraph 0042).

Claims 12 and 23 are patentable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the claims on which they depend.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 3-8, 14-19 and 25-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant thanks the examiner for indicating allowance of claims 3-8, 14-19, and 25-30 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant notes that the other claims are also patentable as discussed above.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner. Any circumstance in which the applicant has made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that

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there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims. Any circumstance in which the applicant has amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 10559-697001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/23/2006

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